



WDRRC Newsletter

EDITORIAL

by Jack Kurzweil

Three names: Carly Fiorina, Meg Whitman, and Citizens United should be enough to frighten you into action for the November 2010 election.

Using both private wealth and the new, unlimited right to pour corporate money onto the political process, this retrograde collection of Republicans are trying very hard to stage what amounts to a corporate coup in California as well as the rest of the country.

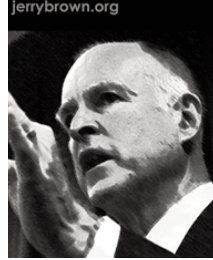


Our response – as always – is the exercise of power by people like us.

Once again, we are called upon to register voters, make phone calls, and walk precincts. It can be tedious work, but the consequences of not doing it are clear for all of us to see.

We want to re-elect Boxer, defeat Whitman, and make the Republicans work very hard to defend their incumbent members of Congress in California.

So once again into the breach. And let's have some good parties along the way.



Endorsement Agenda for the August 26th Club Meeting

This is a listing of the issues that will come before the Club at our August 26th Endorsement Meeting.

We already have made some endorsements: *Already Endorsed Candidates:* Barbara Boxer–U.S. Senate; Barbara Lee–9th Congressional District; Nancy Skinner–14th Assembly District; Sandre Swanson–16th Assembly District; Debra Bowen–Secretary of State

We have to vote on endorsing the remaining Statewide Democratic Candidates. Each of these candidates will have a separate vote on a single ballot page: Jerry Brown–Governor; Gavin Newsom– Lt. Governor; John Chiang–Controller; Bill Lockyer–Treasure; Kamala Harris–Attorney General; Dave Jones–Insurance Commissioner; Betty T.

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KPFA Election Ballots are in the Mail

by Matthew Hallinan

KPFA and the entire Pacifica system are facing a serious crisis. In addition to the global economic downturn, we are saddled with an expensive and oversized Pacifica bureaucracy that consumes precious resources that should be invested in producing quality radio but which are spent on endless turf battles.

- one fourth of KPFA listeners' donations goes to the Pacifica bureaucracy.
- the local station board, whose elections costs tens of thousands of dollars, currently spends all its time consumed in internal battles to control the station, while raising no money and contributing little or nothing to building the station.

KPFA won't survive unless the Progressive community realizes the seriousness of the crisis and takes action to support the station. The present majority on the LSB is tied to Pacifica bureaucracy. It resists any attempt to cut Pacifica's costs, while supporting drastic down-sizing at KPFA. An all-volunteer station

would simply be a play-thing for a narrow, ever changing slice of the left. KPFA's mission is to be a voice for the entire progressive community - we need to find that larger audience and to produce quality radio more than ever.

SaveKPFA seeks to rally progressive support for the station. As in 1999, we have to resist the Pacifica Board imposing its own agenda on KPFA. We have to construct a board majority that focuses on building the station, raising funds and producing events. We are committed to seeking common ground with others who share our concerns about the state of the station. We need to save this precious resource.

- Save KPFA STANDS FOR:
- CHANGE Plugging KPFA into the 21st century with access to the internet and new media technology and supporting innovative programming;
 - DIALOGUE KPFA must be a forum for dialogue and debate
 - DIVERSITY Upholding KPFA's mis-

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Endorsement Meeting Rules August 26th, 2010

1. In order to eligible to vote at the endorsement meeting, you must be a Member in Good Standing. You are a Member in Good Standing if
 - a. you contribute to the Club monthly by check or Electronic Funds Transfer;
 - b. your membership expired in April 2010 or earlier and you renewed your membership before June 1, 2010;
 - c. your membership expired in June, July, August 2010 and you have renewed up to and including the endorsement meeting on August 26. This includes renewing at the meeting itself.
2. Each Member in Good Standing may carry the proxy of one other Member in

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The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club (WDRC) is composed of individuals working together to renew and invigorate the Democratic Party. **Our goals are to:**

1. **BUILD A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT** for progressive change.
2. **TRANSFORM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** to make it a consistent vehicle for the articulation and mobilization of populist and progressive values and political power; and
3. **ELECT DEMOCRATS TO ALL OFFICES** up and down the ballot and end the right wing stranglehold of our government in Congress.

Check our website for further information:
www.wellstoneclub.org

Join Us!

If you share our passion for peace, freedom, civil liberties, racial and gender equality, a sustainable environment and economic justice, help us renew America's Democracy. **We meet every 4th Thursday of the month.**
info@wellstoneclub.org.

The WDRC Newsletter is published once a month and is put together by the Communications Committee.

Editors:
Jack Kurzweil and Ces Rosales

To send comments, articles or letters to the editors, contact communications@wellstoneclub.org

or snail mail to:
WDRC Newsletter Committee
P.O. Box 65
Berkeley, CA 94701

State Proposition Recommendations

The Club will vote on its positions on the State Propositions on August 26. In order to facilitate that discussion, the Coordinating Committee (CC) has made the following recommendations. For further information, see the websites of the Secretary of State:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm> or the League of Women Voters: <http://ca.lwv.org/>

Proposition 19: Legalization of Marijuana will legalize various marijuana-related activities, allow local governments to regu-

late these activities, permit local governments (but not the state government) to impose and collect marijuana-related fees and taxes.

CC recommends: Vote YES on Prop 19

Proposition 20: Extends Prop. 11 to Congressional Districts.

Proposition 11, passed in 2008, established a Commission to redraw the lines of state legislative districts. Prop.20 extends that power to Congressional Districts. As the Commission has an equal number Republicans and Democrats despite regis-

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Endorsement Rules ...

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Good Standing. Upon presentation at the door to the meeting of a written note or email assigning a proxy to that specific person, the designee will be given two ballots – one for themselves and the second as a proxy.

3. ~~In order to delay consideration of a specific endorsement issue to the September Club meeting, a motion to Suspend the Bylaws for that purpose must be made, seconded, and receive a 2/3 vote.~~
This section (#3) has been struck out. There is nothing in our Bylaws that says anything about suspending our Bylaws

4. All ballots shall include the option of No Endorsement.

5. In order to receive an endorsement from the club, a candidate must receive at least 60% of the vote.

If there are more than two candidates seeking endorsement for the same office and if a 60% majority is not reached on the first ballot, a second shall be taken between the two top vote-getters.

If no candidate receives a 60% majority on the second ballot, the club's position will be No Endorsement.

6. The choices on ballot measures shall be listed as Yes, No, and No Position. If neither Yes nor No receive 60% of the vote, the Club's position will be "No Position".

7. At an appropriate point in the meeting, the floor will be open for nominations for offices not on the current ballot. Endorsement votes for those offices will be held at a subsequent regular club meeting or a special meeting as determined by the Coordinating Committee.

Endorsement Agenda ...

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Yee – Bd of Equalization District 1

There is a contested election for the non-partisan office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Larry Aceves

Local Propositions

Berkeley:

1. Downtown Plan; 2. School Tax;
3. School Bond; 4. Two marijuana initiatives.

Check the websites of City of Berkeley and Berkeley Unified School District for further information

Oakland:

Propositions on fees and parcel taxes.

At the time of preparation of this newsletter, we do not have information about ballot designations or descriptions.

Please check the website of the Alameda County Registrar of Voters
<http://www.acgov.org/rov/next.htm>

Local Elections

Peralta Community College Trustee, Abel Guillen; EBMUD Director, Andy Katz; Superior Court Judge, Victoria Kolakawsi

Berkeley City Council: District 1, Linda Maio; District 4, Jesse Arreguin; District 7, George Beier, Cecilia "Ces" Rosales, Kriss Worthington

Berkeley Auditor: AnnMarie Hogan

Berkeley School Board: Joshua Daniels, Karen Hemphill, Leah Wilson

Oakland Auditor: Courtney Ruby

Oakland Mayor: Rebecca Kaplan, Jean Quan

Oakland City Council: District 2, Pat Kernighan, Jennifer Pae; District 4, Libby Schaff, Daniel Swafford, Melanie Shelby

Proposition ...

Continued from previous page

tration figures showing large Democratic majorities, the CC considers this to be an unrepresentative process.

CC recommends: Vote NO on Prop 20

Proposition 21: Increase Vehicle License Fees by \$18 to Support State Parks

If passed, it will raise about \$500 million a year in a dedicated fund for the state's 278 parks and keep them all open. It will also allow any vehicle registered in California to enter day use parking areas in State parks for free.

CC recommends: Vote YES on Prop 21

Proposition 22: Prohibits the State from taking funds otherwise set aside under prior legislation for local government and redevelopment projects.

This initiative pits two legitimate interests: local services, such as public transportation and infrastructure, against state government and the services it helps provide, such as education and health care. This is a very bad choice since what we really need is more revenue at both levels of government,

CC recommends: NO position on Prop 22

Proposition 23: Suspend AB 32, Global Warming Solutions Act.

AB 32 requires polluters to gradually cease polluting. In order to kill AB32, the polluters put this Prop. 23 on the ballot. Sponsors of the initiative misleadingly refer to their measure as the California Jobs Initiative. Proposition 23 is supported by most big business interests in the state and country- particularly the oil, gas, and coal industries.

CC recommends: Vote NO on Prop 23

Proposition 24: Repeals legislation that gave business a variety of tax breaks.

If approved would provide the state over \$1 Billion more in revenue per year than it otherwise would receive. The state needs all the revenue it can get, particularly if most of it comes from large corporations.

CC recommends: Vote YES on Prop 24

Proposition 25: Majority Vote on the State Budget

This initiative would require a majority vote in both the California state Assembly and Senate to pass a State

budget, ending the current two-thirds requirement. It also requires state legislators to forfeit pay if they fail to pass a budget by the June 1 deadline.

The Club has already decided: Vote Yes

Proposition 26: Two-thirds Vote for State Levies and Fees

Increases the legislative vote requirement to two-thirds from a simple majority for state levies, fees and other charges, as well as makes it more difficult for local governments to approve local levies. This will further cripple the legislature in balancing the budget without further cuts in vital services. The Jarvis-Gann gang brings this proposition to you.

CC recommends: Vote NO on Prop 26

Proposition 27: Abolishes the Prop. 11 Reapportionment Commission

The Commission has equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, while the state registration numbers are more than 4-3 Democratic. The CC also believes that the Commission, as it is being constituted, is not representative of the state's population. The Proposition returns reapportionment to the State Legislature.

CC recommends: Vote YES on Prop 27

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East Bay DFA and WDRC September 8th Meetup

TBRC Organizes for November Election

At our September Meetup, Mayme Hubert from Take Back Red California will speak to East Bay progressives about how we change our elected officials one district at a time - replacing conservatives Republicans with more liberal Democrats.

She'll bring several of the TBRC (Take Back Red California) backed candidates who are running for office this Fall. At the Congressional level, they are supporting Clint Curtis against Tom McClintock in CD4, Dr. Ami Bera against Dan Lundgrin in CD3 and Jim Reed against Wally Herger in CD2. These are some of the most conservative members of the House and TBRC is looking for grass roots support to change those Red seats to Blue.

Tom McClintock serves on the Natural Resources Committee, is ranking member of the Water & Power subcommittee and is a member of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands subcommittee.

Wally Herger is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the

Congressional Water Caucus.

Dan Lungren has continued his law and order approach to government with membership on the Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees.

TBRC, along with other progressive organizations has shown that we make change happen with boots on the ground

Crucial Election in Richmond

by Mike Parker

Gayle McLaughlin, the progressive Mayor of Richmond, is facing a stiff re-election campaign this November. She is the candidate of the Richmond Progressive Alliance along with Jovanka Beckles and Eduardo Martinez who are running for City Council. If Mayor McLaughlin is re-elected and at least one of the Council candidates running with her wins, there will be a progressive majority in Richmond that is prepared to

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for candidates we support. In 2006 we ousted Richard Pombo from his chairmanship of the Natural Resources Committee. We did it in CD11 with canvassing, phone banking and GOTV. We can make a difference in 2010 if we choose to mobilize our supporters.

September Meetup: Wednesday, Sept 8
East Bay DFA & Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club; Rockridge Public Library, 5366 College Ave; 6:30 pm Socializing & Pizza; 7:00 pm Meetup begins

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take on Chevron and the developers who want to turn Bayshore land into a Las Vegas style casino resort.

Chevron, the world's 5th largest corporation, has already been forced to pay substantially more in taxes directly to the city. Environmental groups have forced Chevron to deal more effectively with the environmental pollution caused by its operations.

Chevron and the local Chamber of Commerce are mobilizing a campaign to crush the Mayor and progressive forces. While demanding and winning property tax rebates from the County in the tens of millions, Chevron is sprinkling a small

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www.wellstoneclub.org

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KPFA Ballots ...

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sion of social justice and artistic diversity – for labor, young people, people of color, musicians and artists, old radicals and new.

KPFA's mission is to be a voice for the entire progressive community - we need to find that larger audience and to produce quality radio more than ever.

LOCAL CONTROL We represent KPFA's listeners. We will defend KPFA's finances and programming.

PROFESSIONALISM by paid and unpaid staff that creates high-quality radio without diluting KPFA's message.

RESPONSIBILITY A board that builds the station and raises money, not one that attacks it and spends money. We believe in a collaborative relationship with staff and station management. We are clear that the board should not manage the station.

The SaveKPFA candidates are: Mal Burnstein, Don Goldmacher, Matthew Hallinan, Margy Wilkinson, Suzi Goldmacher, Dave Saldana, Terry Doran, Marc Hernandez, Tanya Russel, Jack Kurzweil.

Richmond Election ...

Continued from Page 3

percentage of what it should pay in taxes on non-profits in the area in order to neutralize them or win their support in the political battle. It has hired full time people who appear at Richmond meetings and put out a glossy local magazine. Chevron is a major bankroller of political candidates.

Despite the power of Chevron, we believe we can win. Our campaign needs some political attention from outside of Richmond. It strengthens the morale of our campaign workers, and helps raise some desperately needed money to pay for campaign costs.

We need money and we need volunteer help. We go door to door every Saturday (mobilize at the office 317 11th St, Richmond, at 10 am). We also need help in phoning, office work, and putting signs up. We are an all-volunteer organization.

Despite the power of Chevron, we believe we can win. Our campaign needs some political attention from outside of Richmond.

Call us at 510-412-2260 or email us at rpaActivist@gmail.com. Check our web site out www.richmondprogressivealliance.net which has the links to the websites of our candidates.

Next WDRC Meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 6:30 – 9:00PM

Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street

(between Telegraph and Broadway)

Agenda

Endorsement (or not) of Candidates and Propositions for November 2, 2010 Election

See Rules and Agenda on Page 1

Come and join us at 6PM for a pot luck!

Bring a dish to share!

GOOD FOOD! GREAT COMPANY!